

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) An orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols, produced by calcining a catalyst precursor comprising basic magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b), wherein the basic magnesium carbonate (a) and the magnesium oxide (b) are mixed together at a weight ratio ((a)/(b)) of 20/80 to 80/20.

2. (Original) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in claim 1, wherein the basic magnesium carbonate (a) is heavy magnesium carbonate.

3. (Currently Amended) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the magnesium oxide (b) is light burned magnesia.

4. (Currently Amended) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in ~~claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor further comprises manganese oxalate (c) in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight based on the total (100% by weight) of basic magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b)~~ claim 2, wherein the magnesium oxide (b) is light burned magnesia.

5. (Currently Amended) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor ~~is molded before calcination and the calcination is performed at 300 to 500°C in the absence of molecular oxygen~~ further comprises manganese oxalate (c) in an amount of 0.1 to 10% by weight based on the total (100% by weight) of basic magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b).

6. (Currently Amended) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5,~~ wherein the ~~orthoalkylation catalyst has a catalytic surface area of 25 to 500 m²/g~~ claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor is molded before calcination and the calcination is performed at 300 to 500°C in the absence of molecular oxygen.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A process for producing an orthoalkylated phenol, which comprises performing a vapor phase reaction of a phenol with an alkyl alcohol in the presence of the orthoalkylation catalyst claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 so that an orthoalkylated phenol is obtained~~ The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as claimed in claim 1, wherein the weight ratio ((a)/(b)) is 20/80 to 60/40.

8. (New) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as defined in any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the orthoalkylation catalyst has a catalytic surface area of 25 to 500 m²/g.

9. (New) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as defined in claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor is formed by adding water to a mixture comprising magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b).

10. (New) The orthoalkylation catalyst for phenols as defined in claim 1, wherein the catalyst precursor is formed by adding water to a mixture comprising magnesium carbonate (a) and magnesium oxide (b).

11. (New) A process for producing an orthoalkylated phenol, which comprises performing a vapor phase reaction of a phenol with an alkyl alcohol in the presence of the orthoalkylation catalyst according to claim 1 so that an orthoalkylated phenol is obtained.

12. (New) A process for producing an orthoalkylated phenol, which comprises performing a vapor phase reaction of a phenol with an alkyl alcohol in the presence of the orthoalkylation catalyst according to claim 1 so that an orthoalkylated phenol is obtained.

13. (New) A process for producing an orthoalkylated phenol, which comprises performing a vapor phase reaction of a phenol with an alkyl alcohol in the presence of the orthoalkylation catalyst according to claim 9 so that an orthoalkylated phenol is obtained.